

REMARKS

The Official Action dated December 2, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, claims 1-5 have been canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Accordingly, claims 6-8 are presently pending in the instant application.

Initially, Applicants wish to acknowledge the Examiner's indication on page 3 of the Office Action, that claims 6-8 are allowable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, with the foregoing amendments it is respectfully requested that claims 6-8 again be indicated as being allowable over the prior art of record and that the application be passed to issue.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claim 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Publication 822325. With the foregoing amendments, and particularly the cancellation of claims 1-5, it is respectfully submitted that further discussion with respect to the rejection of claims 1-5 is no longer believed to be warranted.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing it is respectfully requested that the rejection of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, that claims 6-8 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution of the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,



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